

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1-23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A system for wireless LAN (Local Area Network) communication, comprising:

a user terminal for a user;

a plurality of wireless LAN base stations shared by a plurality of service providers for providing an Internet-access service, said plurality of service providers including a first service provider to be contracted with said user and a second service provider not to be contracted with said user, said plurality of wireless LAN base station including a first wireless LAN base station managed by said first service provider and a second wireless LAN base station managed by said second service provider;

means for obtaining a one-time password and one-time ID that are associated with said user and valid for a given period of time every time said user terminal is connected to any one of said wireless LAN base stations other than said first wireless LAN base station, ~~when said user terminal is connected to said second wireless LAN base station;~~

means for connecting said user terminal to said second

wireless LAN base station using said one-time password and one-time ID;

means for collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of said user terminal, when said user terminal is connected to said second wireless LAN base station; and

means for enabling said first service provider to pay a charge on usage of said second wireless LAN base station to said second service provider in accordance with said communication amount and communication time.

25. (previously presented) The system according to claim 24, further comprising:

means for informing said second service provider of a MAC address of said user terminal, when said user terminal is connected to said second wireless LAN base station; and

means for authenticating whether or not to permit connection between said user terminal and said second wireless LAN base station based on the MAC address.

26. (currently amended) The system according to claim 24, further comprising:

~~means for setting a time band for using said second wireless LAN base stations for each of said plurality of service providers; and~~

means for refusing connection of said user terminal to said second wireless LAN base station when a time of usage thereof is out of the given period of time ~~set time band for using said~~

~~second wireless LAN base station.~~

27. (previously presented) The system according to claim 24, further comprising

means for ranking each of users of said first service provider in accordance with charge plans on usage of said second wireless LAN base station; and

means for restricting connection in order from said each of users with a lower rank, in case that an average communication speed per user falls below a predetermined communication speed or in case that a number of connections to said second wireless LAN base station exceeds a preset number of connections of simultaneously connectable users.

28. (currently amended) The system according to claim 24, wherein

said plurality of wireless LAN base stations include a third wireless LAN base station which is pre-sited in common space of a shopping center and is managed by a manager of said shopping center, and

said system further comprises:

~~means for obtaining a one time password and one time ID valid for a given time, when said user terminal is connected to third second wireless LAN base station;~~

means for connecting said user terminal to said third wireless LAN base station using said one-time password and one-time ID;

means for collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of said user terminal, when said user terminal is connected to said third wireless LAN base station; and

means for enabling said first service provider to pay a charge on usage of said third wireless LAN base station to said manager in accordance with said communication amount and communication time.

29. (currently amended) The system according to claim [[27]]28, further comprising:

~~means for setting a time band for using said third wireless LAN base stations for each of said plurality of service providers; and~~

means for refusing connection of said user terminal to said third wireless LAN base station when a time of usage thereof is out of the given period of time ~~set time band for using said third wireless LAN base station.~~

30. (currently amended) The system according to claim [[27]]28, further comprising:

means for ranking each of users in accordance with charge plans on usage of said third wireless LAN base station; and

means for restricting connection in order from said each of users with a lower rank, in case that an average communication speed per user falls below a predetermined communication speed or in case that a number of connections to said third wireless LAN base station exceeds a preset number of connections of

simultaneously connectable users.

31. (currently amended) A method for wireless LAN (Local Area Network) communication in a system including

a user terminal for a user, and

a plurality of wireless LAN base stations shared by a plurality of service providers for providing an Internet-access service, said plurality of service providers including a first service provider to be contracted with said user and a second service provider not to be contracted with said user, said plurality of wireless LAN base station including a first wireless LAN base station managed by said first service provider and a second wireless LAN base station managed by said second service provider, said method comprising:

obtaining a one-time password and one-time ID that are associated with said user and valid for a given period of time every time said user terminal is connected to any one of said wireless LAN base stations other than said first wireless LAN base station, ~~when said user terminal is connected to said second wireless LAN base station;~~

connecting said user terminal to said second wireless LAN base station using said one-time password and one-time ID;

collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of said user terminal, when said user terminal is connected to said second wireless LAN base station; and

enabling said first service provider to pay a charge on

usage of said second wireless LAN base station to said second service provider in accordance with said communication amount and communication time.

32. (previously presented) The method according to claim 31, further comprising:

informing said second service provider of a MAC address of said user terminal, when said user terminal is connected to said second wireless LAN base station; and

authenticating whether or not to permit connection between said user terminal and said second wireless LAN base station based on the MAC address.

33. (currently amended) The method according to claim 31, further comprising:

~~setting a time band for using said second wireless LAN base stations for each of said plurality of service providers; and~~

refusing connection of said user terminal to said second wireless LAN base station when a time of usage thereof is out of the given period of time ~~set time band for using said second wireless LAN base station.~~

34. (previously presented) The method according to claim 31, further comprising:

ranking each of users of said first service provider in accordance with charge plans on usage of said second wireless LAN base station; and

restricting connection in order from said each of users with a lower rank, in case that an average communication speed per user falls below a predetermined communication speed or in case that a number of connections to said second wireless LAN base station exceeds a preset number of connections of simultaneously connectable users.

35. (currently amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein

said plurality of wireless LAN base stations include a third wireless LAN base station which is pre-sited in common space of a shopping center and is managed by a manager of said shopping center, said method further comprising:

~~obtaining a one time password and one time ID valid for a given time, when said user terminal is connected to third second wireless LAN base station;~~

connecting said user terminal to said third wireless LAN base station using said one-time password and one-time ID;

collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of said user terminal, when said user terminal is connected to said third wireless LAN base station; and

enabling said first service provider to pay a charge on usage of said third wireless LAN base station to said manager in accordance with said communication amount and communication time.

36. (currently amended) The method according to claim 35, further comprising:

~~setting a time band for using said third wireless LAN base stations for each of said plurality of service providers; and~~
refusing connection of said user terminal to said third wireless LAN base station when a time of usage thereof is out of the given period of time ~~set time band for using said third wireless LAN base station.~~

37. (previously presented) The method according to claim 35, further comprising:

ranking each of users in accordance with charge plans on usage of said third wireless LAN base station; and

restricting connection in order from said each of users with a lower rank, in case that an average communication speed per user falls below a predetermined communication speed or in case that a number of connections to said third wireless LAN base station exceeds a preset number of connections of simultaneously connectable users.